

[23 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

- (vi) Import duty on vanaspati, bakery shortening, interesterified fact, margarine has been raised from 30% to 80%.
- (vii) Duty-free import of vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine from Sri Lanka under India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) has also been restricted to 2.5 lakh metric tonnes per year.
- (viii) In order to harmonize the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.
- (ix) Tariff value is fixed from time to time for palm oil and its products and soyabean oil.
- (x) Edible oils including vanaspati have been kept in the Negative List of India under the Agreement o/i South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which has become operational from 1.7.2006. It has also been decided that these items would be kept in the negative list of prospective free trade agreements or similar agreements.

Export of pharmaceutical and chemical items

2. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of pharmaceutical and chemical items being exported to the various countries;
- (b) the value of export made to these countries during the last three years; and
- (c) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the exports and to earn huge foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Various pharmaceutical items and basic chemicals being exported globally include drugs, drug-intermediates, formulations, vaccines, herbal products, dyes & dye-intermediates, inorganic, organic & agro chemicals, cosmetics and agarbattis.

(b) The value of exports of these items during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Basic Chemicals	Pharmaceutical Items
2003-04	11648	15213
2004-05	14219	17857
2005-06	17986	21578

(c) With a view to increase exports and earn foreign exchange, duty free import of raw materials required for production is allowed alongwith neutralization of taxes and duties as per provision of Foreign Trade Policy. Besides under Market Access Initiative (MAI) and Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Schemes financial assistance is given to exporters for promotion of exports.

Package for development of cash crops sector in Kerala

3. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any proposal for a special package for the development of cash crops sector from the Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, details of the proposal therein and the action taken by the Government; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal from Government of Kerala for revival/rejuvenation of various agricultural crops which also included proposal for revival of plantation crops in Kerala. The Union Cabinet has, on a proposal made to the Agriculture Department, already approved a special rehabilitation package in this regard for farmers in 31 disturbed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Cabinet has also approved *the* approach suggested by the Agricultural